

NOTICE OF AMENDMENT

CERTIFIED - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

May 12, 2000

Mr. Mark Ellis
Vice President, San Juan Division
Burlington Resources
San Juan Division
P.O. Box 4289
Farmington, NM 87499-4289

CPF No. 5-2000-1005

Dear Mr. Ellis:

On December 8-10, 1999 a representative of the Western Region, Office of Pipeline Safety, pursuant to Chapter 601 of 49 United States Code, conducted an onsite pipeline safety inspection of Burlington Resources, Antlers Pipeline manuals and records at Farmington, NM.

As a result of a review of your operating and maintenance manual, the requirements for which are set forth in Section 192.605(b), the following inadequate procedures were noted:

1. **§191.15 Transmission and gathering systems: Incident report.**

(b) Where additional related information is obtained after a report is submitted under paragraph (a) of this section, the operator shall make a supplemental report as soon as practicable with a clear reference by date and subject to the original report.

Your company's Operations & Maintenance Manual did not contain procedures for, or direct making supplemental reports of additional information following the required, 30 day incident report in accordance with §191.15(b)

2. **§192.241 Inspection and test of welds.**

(b) The welds on a pipeline to be operated at a pressure that produces a hoop stress of 20 percent or more of SMYS must be nondestructively tested in accordance with §192.243, except that welds that are visually inspected

and approved by a qualified welding inspector need not be nondestructively tested if:

- (1) The pipe has a nominal diameter of less than 6 inches(152 millimeters);;**
or
- (2) The pipeline is to be operated at a pressure that produces a hoop stress of less than 40 percent of SMYS and the welds are so limited in number that nondestructive testing is impractical.**

Your company's Operations & Maintenance Manual did not contain procedures directing nondestructive testing of welds on pipelines that produce hoop stresses of 20 percent or more of SMYS in accordance with §192.241(b)(1 & 2).

3 §192.243 Nondestructive testing.

(b) Nondestructive testing of welds must be performed:

- (1) In accordance with written procedures; and**
- (2) By persons who have been trained and qualified in the established procedures and with the equipment employed in testing.**

Your company's Operations & Maintenance Manual did not contain procedures directing that nondestructive testing of welds on pipelines will be performed in accordance with written procedures and by trained and qualified persons in accordance with §192.243(b)(1 & 2).

4 §192.243 Nondestructive testing.

(f) When nondestructive testing is required under §192.241(b), each operator must retain, for the life of the pipeline, a record showing by milepost, engineering station, or by geographic feature, the number of girth welds made, the number nondestructively tested, the number rejected, and the disposition of the rejects.

Your company's Operations & Maintenance Manual did not contain procedures directing that nondestructive test records required by §192.241(b) be retained for the life of the pipeline in accordance with §192.243(f).

As provided in 49 C.F.R. §190.237, this notice serves as your notification that this office considers your procedures/plans inadequate. Under 49 C.F.R. § 190.237, you have a right to submit written comments or request an informal hearing. You must submit written comments or a request for a hearing within 30 days after receipt of this notice. After reviewing the record,

the Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety will determine whether your plans or procedures are adequate. The criteria used in making this determination are outlined in 49 C.F.R. § 190.237. If you do not wish to contest this notice, please provide your revised procedures within 30 days of receipt of this notice.

When appropriate procedures have been prepared, submit them to Director, Western Region, Office of Pipeline Safety, Research and Special Programs Administration, 12600 West Colfax Avenue, Suite A-250, Lakewood, Colorado 80215.

Please refer to **CPF No.5-2000-1005** in any correspondence on this matter.

Sincerely,

Chris Hoidal
Regional Director